

Britney Cheung
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Class of 2023

Project Overview

Roseland String Quartet Fourth-year Recital

Objectives

Our string quartet hopes to perform a fourth-year recital in the Spring of 2023 (potentially on April 21st and 28th) to present the work we have accomplished over the past three years as a chamber ensemble. The four members of our group: Britney Cheung, Alex Taing, Isabelle Lesmana, and Christopher Fox, have played in string groups together (as a string quartet and with other musicians at UVA) since our first year, and hope to culminate our experiences together in this final project.

We plan to play five pieces in the recital. Having already prepared (and performed) Mozart String Quartet No. 22 “Dissonance” and Ginastera String Quartet No. 1 through the Chamber Ensemble course, we expect to add a Beethoven String Quartet in our program in Fall 2022. Additionally, Alex Taing and Isabelle Lesmana have previously arranged a few pop songs for string quartet, which we also hope to showcase. In the past few semesters, we have individually worked on improving our technique and sound to accommodate for different styles of playing, and, as a group, have endeavored to create a blended, rotund group sound that also highlights our own distinct voices. Under the instruction of our chamber coaches, we have learned how to understand the intentions of composers, to create balance among our instruments, to convey stories and characters in our interpretations, and to enjoy the music we play together. We hope to further refine our artistry as we continue to work together through the end of our college careers, finishing our undergraduate chamber music journey with this fourth-year recital.

Methods

Our substantive preparation for the recital will look largely similar to what we have done so far – disciplined individual practice and consistent group rehearsals. We will also conduct research on the pieces as well as the composers to better understand the context of our music and to produce a set of program notes for our audience, which we plan to present during the recital. These efforts will be supervised by our chamber coaches and our faculty advisor, Professor Daniel Sender. The featured program notes will include brief biographies of our musical experiences and acknowledgements to those who have guided us along the way. We also plan to create physical and virtual promotion materials, in which we will hire a professional photographer for quartet photos around a month prior to the recital.

In addition to our own preparation, we would also like to attend one or two coaching sessions with professional chamber ensembles outside of UVA. Professor Sender has kindly agreed to help us find a group, and we expect this to happen some time next fall.

Our group hopes to perform in Old Cabell Hall auditorium. We also plan to have a minimum two-hour long dress rehearsal for the performance prior to the performance to acquaint ourselves with the acoustics in the hall, which costs \$100 per hour. Ushers will be required for the event. Old Cabell Hall provides ushers at the price of \$200.

Other miscellaneous costs include matching professional concert attire (we are going for a pink and black aesthetic), totaling to \$800 for all members combined, and materials for a post-concert reception. While these details are not absolutely necessary, we believe that they will enhance the overall experience of the recital. A more detailed list of costs will be provided below.

Potential Limitations

We anticipate our biggest obstacle to be the availability of the Old Cabell Hall auditorium. Knowing this, we plan to reach out to Joel Jacobus to secure a weekend for our recital next year. Other potential problems may include scheduling conflicts within the group, but we are confident that we will be able to find a satisfactory time for everyone. A potential pitfall may be garnering attendance to our recital, however we will mitigate this by promoting our recital early and emphasizing that there is a reception afterwards.

The outcome report will provide a detailed description of the preparation process from now up to the concert date, including all of our logistical and musical activities related to the event. I will also show video clips of our rehearsals and final performance in the outcome presentation and explain our artistic intentions behind certain elements of our recital.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration. Any aid to this project will be greatly beneficial to our recital and musical education. Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Project Timeline

Spring 2022:

1. Rehearse and perform Ginastera String Quartet No. 1 mvt. 1, 3
2. Book time slot at Old Cabell Hall Auditorium

Fall 2022:

1. Rehearse and perform a Beethoven Quartet
2. Research and write program notes for all three pieces
3. Coaching with external chamber ensemble

Spring 2023:

1. Rehearse and perform Ginastera String Quartet No. 1 mvt 2, 4
2. Review previous pieces and prepare for recital
3. Take group photos
4. Distribute promotional material
5. Perform recital

Proposed Budget

Old Cabell Hall Auditorium (5-hr reservation) -----	\$525
Old Cabell Hall Auditorium (2-hr reservation) -----	\$200
Ushers -----	\$200
High-quality recording-----	\$150
Printing promotional material -----	\$100
Photographer -----	\$200
Coaching -----	\$300
Food for reception (Chick-fil-a) -----	\$200
Professional Concert Attire -----	\$800
2 Dresses-----	\$200/dress
2 Suits -----	\$200/suit

Total: **\$2675**

Evidence of Participation in the Arts

I have enjoyed participating in a variety of music ensembles at UVA. In addition to the chamber music ensemble seminar which I have played in almost every semester, both as a violinist and a violist, I have been taking private lessons with Professor Sender since the fall of 2019. I was also involved in the Charlottesville Symphony (Fall 2019) and the pit orchestra in First Year Players (Spring 2021) and am learning to play the Baroque violin in the Baroque Orchestra with Professor Sariti this semester. My chamber ensemble frequently performs for events on and off Grounds, including weddings, receptions, and concerts. Additionally, I have given solo and group performances in the auditorium at Old Cabell Hall, Brooks Hall, and the John Paul Jones Arena.

I am also interested in other genres of art. While music remains to be the biggest commitment outside of my academic curriculum, I have taken Introduction to Studio Art with Professor Matthew Shelton and am currently participating in a photography workshop with Frédéric Brenner, in which I am presenting a project on experiences of Asian American students at UVA.